

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image forming apparatus for forming an image, comprising:

10 a process indication receiving part receiving a process indication indicating an execution of a process from a requesting part; and

a process executing part executing the process in accordance with a process instruction description specified by a instruction description identification indicated by the process instruction.

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20 2. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a process item sending part sending process items to the requesting part in response to an obtain request for obtaining the process items set in the process instruction description from the requesting part.

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3. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

5           a change request receiving part receiving a change request indicating subject process items of the process instruction description, said subject process items which are subjects of changing;

          an instruction changing part changing the  
10 process instruction description in accordance with the subject process items of changing,

          wherein when said process instruction receiving part receives the process instruction, said process executing part executes the process in accordance with the  
15 process instruction description changed by said instruction description changing part.

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4. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an instruction description sending part sending the process instruction description to the requesting part in response to the obtain request of the  
25 process instruction description from the requesting part.

5                   5. The image forming apparatus as claimed in  
claim 4, further comprising a process instruction  
description receiving part receiving the process instruction  
description sent from the requesting part,

                  wherein when the process instruction receiving  
10 part receives the process instruction, the process executing  
part executes the process in accordance with the process  
instruction description received by said process instruction  
description receiving part.

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                  6. The image forming apparatus as claimed in  
claim 2, further comprising an instruction description  
20 storing part storing contents of the process instruction  
description executed by said process executing part to a  
predetermined storage area.

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7. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

the predetermined storage area is externally  
5 provided and is externally accessed through a network; and  
said instruction description storing part stores  
contents of the process instruction description to the  
predetermined storage area through the network.

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8. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a changing part obtaining  
15 information concerning executable process items from said  
process executing part and changing the process instruction  
description to an executable process instruction  
description,

wherein said process executing part executes the  
20 process in accordance with the executable process  
instruction changed by said changing part.

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9. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a communication controlling part controlling a communication with the requesting part by a structural description language using a tag.

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10. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a ticket sending part issuing a ticket showing a use permission of a object data set directed to the process in response to a use permission request requesting the use permission of the object data set from the requesting part, and sending ticket identification identifying the ticket to the request part; and

a providing part specifying the object data set based on the ticket identification indicated by the process instruction received by said process instruction receiving part, and providing the object data set and the process instruction description to said process executing part.

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11. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a use permission determining part determining a use permission based on a password indicated by a use permission request received from the requesting part, the  
5 use permission request requesting a use permission of an object data set directed to the process.

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12. An image forming method executable in an image forming system for executing a process in response to a request from a requesting part, comprising the steps of:

15 (a) receiving a process instruction instructing an execution of the process from the requesting part; and

(b) executing the process in accordance with a process instruction description including process items to execute in response to the process instruction, said process  
20 items indicted by the process instruction.

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13. An information processing apparatus,

comprising:

an identification obtaining part obtaining  
instruction description identification specifying a process  
instruction description from an apparatus for executing a  
5 process, said instruction description identification  
setting process items; and

a process instruction sending part indicating  
the instruction description identification obtained from the  
identification obtaining part and sending a process  
10 instruction instructing an execution of the process.

15 14. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a process item obtaining part obtaining the  
process items set in the process instruction description from  
the apparatus; and

20 a change request sending part sending a change  
request setting process items of the process instruction  
description to change.

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15. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a instruction description obtaining part  
5 obtaining the process instruction description from the apparatus;

an instruction description creating part  
creating another process instruction description in which  
process items set in the process instruction description  
10 obtained by said instruction description obtaining part are changed; and

an instruction description sending part sending  
the process instruction description created by the  
instruction description creating part to the apparatus.  
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16. A computer-readable recording medium  
20 recorded with a program for causing a computer functioned as an information processing apparatus to conduct a process instruction to an apparatus for executing a process, said program comprising the codes for:

(a) obtaining instruction description  
25 identification specifying a process instruction description



from an apparatus for executing a process, said instruction description identification setting process items; and

(b) indicating the instruction description identification obtained by said code (b) and sending a process instruction instructing an execution of the process.

10                    17. An image forming apparatus for forming an image, comprising:

a process instruction receiving part receiving a process instruction indicating an execution of a process from a requesting part;

15                    an object data obtaining part obtaining an object data set specified by object data identification indicated by the process instruction from an object data storage area for storing at least one object data set directed to the process;

20                    an instruction description obtaining part obtaining a process instruction description specified by instruction description identification indicated by the process instruction from an instruction description storage area for storing a plurality of process instruction  
25 descriptions; and

a process executing part executing the process to the object data set obtained by said object data obtaining part in accordance with the process instruction description obtained by the instruction description obtaining part.

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18. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

an item obtain requesting part receiving an obtain request of process items to set in the process instruction description from the requesting part; and

a process item sending part obtaining the process instruction description specified by the instruction description identification indicated by the obtain request from the instruction description storage area and sending the process items of the process instruction description to the requesting part.

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19. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

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a change request receiving part receiving a change request setting process items to be changed in the process instruction description; and

an instruction description changing part  
5 changing the process instruction description obtained from the instruction description storage area in accordance with the process items to be changed.

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20. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, comprising:

an instruction description receiving part  
15 receiving the process instruction description from the requesting part; and

an adding part adding the process instruction description received by said instruction description receiving part to the instruction description storage area.

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21. The image forming apparatus as claimed in  
25 claim 17, further comprising:

a change request receiving part receiving a change request setting process items to be changed in the process instruction description;

an instruction description changing part  
5 changing the process instruction description obtained from the instruction description storage area in accordance with the process items to be changed; and

an information changing part changing  
instruction description base information concerning the  
10 object data set directed to the process in accordance with the process items to be changed, said instruction description base information from which the process instruction description is originally created.

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22. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

20 an instruction description receiving part receiving the process instruction description from the requesting part;

an adding part adding the process instruction description received by said instruction description  
25 receiving part in the instruction description storage area;

and

an information changing part changing  
instruction description base information concerning the  
object data set directed to the process in accordance with  
the process items to be changed, said instruction description  
5 base information from which the process instruction  
description is originally created.

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23. The image forming apparatus as claimed in  
claim 17, wherein the process instruction description is  
described in a structural description language using a tag.

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24. The image forming apparatus as claimed in  
20 claim 17, further comprising:

a ticket sending part issuing a ticket showing  
a use permission of the object data set and the process  
instruction description with respect to a use permission  
request requesting the user permission of the object data  
25 set and the process instruction description from the

requesting part, and sending a ticket identification  
identifying the ticket; and

a providing part specifying the object data set  
and the process instruction description based on the ticket  
5 identification indicated by the process instruction received  
by said process instruction receiving part, and providing  
the object data set and the process instruction description  
to said process executing part.

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25. The image forming apparatus as claimed in  
claim 17, further comprising:

15 a use permission determining part determining a  
user permission based on passwords of the object data set  
and the process instruction description indicated by a use  
permission request requesting the use permission of the  
object data set and the process instruction description, the  
20 use permission request received from the requesting part;  
and

a providing part the object data set and the  
process instruction description indicated by the process  
instruction received by said process instruction receiving  
25 part when said use permission determining part determines

to permit using the object data set and the process instruction description.

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26. An image forming method executable in an image forming system for executing a process in response to a request from a requesting part, comprising the steps of:

10 (a) receiving a process instruction indicating an execution of the process from the requesting part;

(b) obtaining an object data set specified by object data identification indicated by the process instruction from an object data storage area for storing at least one object data set directed to the process;

15 (c) obtaining a process instruction description specified by instruction description identification indicated by the process instruction from an instruction description storage area for storing a plurality of process instruction descriptions; and

20 (d) executing the process to the object data set obtained by said step (b) in accordance with the process instruction description obtained by said step (b).

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27. An information processing apparatus,  
comprising:

5           a specific information obtaining part obtaining  
specific information specifying an object data set directed  
to a process and a process instruction description setting  
process items from an apparatus for executing the process;  
and

10           a process instruction sending part indicating  
the specific information obtained by said specific  
information obtaining part and sending a process instruction  
indicating an execution of the process to the apparatus.

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28. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 27, further comprising:

20           an object data list displaying part displaying  
a first screen, at which a user is allowed to select a desired  
object data set from a list of the object data sets sent from  
the apparatus, at a display unit; and

            an object data list displaying part displaying  
25 a second screen, at which a user is allowed to select a desired



print instruction description from a list of the print instruction descriptions sent from the apparatus, at the display unit.

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29. A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for causing a computer functioned as an information processing apparatus to conduct a process instruction to an apparatus for executing a process, said program comprising the codes for:

(a) obtaining specific information specifying an object data set directed to a process and a process instruction description setting process items from an apparatus for executing the process; and

(b) indicating the specific information obtained by said code (a) and sending a process instruction indicating an execution of the process to the apparatus.

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